# Ufford PUNCH

*Issue 328*

*May 2024*

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# Welcome to the Ufford PUNCH

## From the Editor

Welcome to the May edition of the Ufford Punch.

Spring has truly sprung and the village seems to have come alive in the past month, banishing that wettest of winters to hopefully a distant memory.

On the subject of reawakening, after many years away, the Summer Ball is being revived. All you need to know about the event will be available on the A5 flyer that has been inserted into this copy of the Punch. This is bound to be a popular evening, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

In this edition we have a poignant article from Jane Cochrane on page 6 as a follow up to our March story on Simon Pearson and Fiona Gorman's biography of Sir Magdi Yacoub. While Andy Gardner delivers his verdict (and a few spoilers) on the Ufford Players production of *Murder at Cliff House* on page 7.

Sadly there has been a recent spate of pub closures in the local area, which makes us at Punch Towers appreciate our village's two fine establishments even more. Polly and Max enter their 13th year of trading at the Ufford Crown and on page 9 Edward Creswick has some stories covering the highs and lows from those years. The White Lion team recently hosted their Vintage Car Rally and this year were blessed with some decent weather and an excellent turn out. James Mutton has been a regular at these rallies and I asked him to share his experiences of researching, restoring and exhibiting his 1943 Ford GPW Jeep (pages 12-13).

As we move into the warmer weather, we have a sporting double bill on pages 14 and 15. The Ufford Tennis club had two open sessions at the start of April and reminded those that came down what a great and social game tennis is. While Kevin Young was one of a group (thanks to the Deben Probus Club for the invite) that visited Foskett Willows and had a very interesting guided tour by Guy himself of his cricket bat willow merchants.

This month's local history piece is supplied by Helen Paxton (page 16), who came across the story of John Glanfield of this parish, known for the "Ufford Mail", a 19th Century rural version of Amazon! That story and many more from our regular contributors can be enjoyed inside. May May be a good month for you. **TH**

**Front cover - digital artwork by Paula Hill**

## Have you heard it on the PUNCHLINE?

**Get the latest village news first via our digital newsletter 'PUNCHLine'.**

**If there is anything you want to broadcast, write your message and send it in Monday - Saturday for circulation to all our subscribers as soon as possible.**

**To subscribe, or broadcast news, email punchline@uffordpunch.org.uk**

GO TO www.uffordpunch.org.uk FOR THE ONLINE EDITIONS

## Ufford PUNCH June 2024

*Deadline for submissions: 17th May 2024*

# UFFORD PUNCH NOTICEBOARD

## Sean McMillan Honoured by Classic Boat Magazine

Huge congratulations to Ufford's Sean McMillan who was recently awarded Classic Boat Magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award at their awards evening at the Royal Thames Yacht Club. The magazine praised Sean for Spirit Yachts' "world leading boatyard, building new spirit-of-tradition yachts, power and sail, all in wood to the strip-epoxy method."

Photo - courtesy of Marcus Holdsworth

## Do you Treasure the Ufford Book Exchange?

A lot of people use the Book Exchange but do they realise how it all came about and what is needed to keep it going? Some eleven or twelve years ago the Parish Council bought the redundant phone box for the village and two neighbours in School Lane offered to install shelves and turn it into a local library - the idea being that you can bring a book or two you no longer want and take a couple home in "exchange" - this has recently very successfully developed into including jigsaw puzzles.

Ros and I took on the job of looking after the box, tidying it up a little if passing by and a couple of times a year have a good sort out – taking out any dog-eared or unsuitable books, which then either go in the recycling bins or to Charity Shops – and sweeping it out before restocking the shelves.

The Parish Council have agreed to have the box painted and smartened up this year and we feel the time has come for other people to take on care of our Book Exchange. We'd love to think that there is someone out there who could spare the time to do this and keep the Book Exchange going. Is it you?

Please call us with the good news. Ros on 01394 461179 or Lyn on 01394 460253.

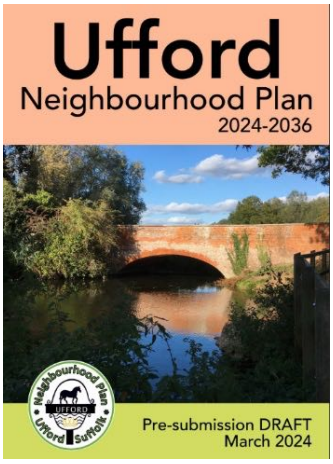
**Lyn Taylor**

## An Apology - Dorothy Whymark's Memorial Service Date

In the April edition of the Punch we erroneously printed the date of Dorothy Whymark's Memorial Service as Friday 26th April instead of Saturday 27th April. We apologised sincerely to Dorothy's family for that error. The Punch then sent out messages on Punchline and HUG apologising to our readers and advising them of the correct service date.

# UPC Ufford Parish Council News

## Ufford Neighbourhood Plan – Last Call for Comments




This is your last chance guys….the Consultation on the Draft Ufford Neighbourhood Plan closes on **3rd May**. You can comment up until that date but not after. The Draft Plan can be found on the Ufford Website (https://ufford.suffolk.cloud/neighbourhood-plan/) along with the Comments Form and all supporting documentation.

Please take the opportunity to read the Draft Plan and comment. The Plan sets out Policies that will shape the way Ufford is managed up until 2036. Hard copies of the Plan can be found in the Church and the Community Hall.

## 2023/24 Accounts

The Parish Council Accounts for the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 have now been fully audited (by Mr Trevor Brown CPFA) and are ready for inspection by residents at a mutually convenient time. You can also see all key documents on the Parish Web Site at https://ufford.suffolk.cloud/parish-council/accounts/

## UPC are looking for a new Councillor

Ufford Parish Council is currently looking to co-opt a Councillor. Could you step up to the mark? You must be 18 or over (there is no upper age limit) and a citizen of the UK. You must also be either on the electoral register, own land in the village or work in the village. Meetings are usually held monthly on the 3rd Tuesdays, at 7pm, for a maximum of 2 hours.

We are a very friendly group and training would be offered to anyone wishing to stand. If you would like to join the team why not come along to our next meeting to see how we operate? We next meet in the Parish Hall, Church Lane, on 28th May (*one week later than our usual date*) at 7.00pm. If you would like to chat about being a Councillor please call David Findley (Chair) on 01394 420946.

## Thank you Cllr. Noble

Cllr. Sally Noble (East Suffolk Council) has recently agreed to fund a third Tree Popper for the Woodlands Group.

This one is a 'Mini version', much easier to use but still very efficient at removing unwanted saplings.

The funds have come from Sally's Enabling Communities Budget and will be paid in late May.

## Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Survey Running until 24th May 2024

East Suffolk Community Partnerships | Framlingham, Wickham Market, Kelsale, Yoxford & villages

**Mental health and emotional wellbeing survey**

The Framlingham, Wickham Market, Kelsale and Yoxford and surrounding villages Community Partnership wants to know your views, insights and ideas around mental health and wellbeing.

Please complete our survey – it is available at https://forms.gle/SkNqEKZvC8NMTCCNA

You can also scan the QR code and complete the survey on your phone

## Sir Magdi was my Sister's Saviour

The article in March's Ufford PUNCH about the authorised biography of Sir Magdi Yacoub by residents Simon Pearson and Fiona Gorman evoked memories for Jane Cochrane, whose family have good reason to appreciate the skills of the esteemed surgeon. She shared her story about how Sir Magdi changed the life of her sister Sarah.

My younger sister Sarah was born with a significant congenital heart defect called Tetralogy of Fallot, which is a birth defect that affects normal blood flow through the heart. It happens when a baby's heart does not form correctly as the baby grows and develops in the mother's womb during pregnancy.

This life threatening condition was not discovered until she was 18 months old when my older sister and I found her hanging by the neck in her cot, having caught her nightdress over a decorative corner knob. All I recall was that she was bright blue. She was rushed to hospital and her condition was diagnosed during her recuperation.

My mum was very reluctant to let the doctors operate on Sarah but as she approached puberty her strength began to fade and Sarah insisted that she needed the operation. She was very brave. When she was 14, Sarah was operated on by Sir Magdi at Harefield Hospital and the defect corrected.

It was a major operation and really quite risky, but without it Sarah's life would have been severely impacted. She recovered well and is very active and celebrated her 60th birthday in January.

The person in the next bed to her, in the intensive care unit was none other than legendary comedian Eric Morecambe, who had had a heart bypass operation, and was still apparently making everyone laugh.

I sent Sarah a copy of Simon and Fiona's book as a surprise gift and she was delighted with it as Sir Magdi means so much to her.

**Jane Cochrane**

Simon Pearson said: "Many thanks for sharing Jane's emails with us. I have passed them onto Magdi's daughter, Lisa, who is our main contact with the family."

**Andy Gardner**

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# Murder Mystery Verdict on Ufford Players - Guilty of Performing a Cracking Show

As a former crime correspondent for a national newspaper who has covered hundreds of real-life whodunnits, you'd probably expect me to identify the killer in the Ufford Player's fine production "Murder at Cliff House."

It is to the credit of the cast - and no doubt my brain being addled by a bottle of Picpoul de Pinet - that I had not the foggiest idea of who was the culprit who poisoned the rather irritating book blogger Di, played with gusto by Angela Linforth.

To be fair, the night we attended only one table managed to get both the killer right and how they did it. I expect they are rather good at Cluedo. As every villager who enjoyed the play over the 22nd and 23rd March will know, it was Cherry Cutting who masterminded the beastly killing.

Photo - Jane Cochrane

The annual Ufford Players' production is in its 35th year and shows no sign of waning, being a must-see for residents and the occasional outsider. It's as much Ufford as the chimes of the bells at St Mary of the Assumption Church.

The small stage at St Mary's Parish Hall is made for nights like these and it was fantastic to see the good, the great and those who don't get out much, packed around tables tucking into their fish and chips from The Flaming Fryer at Wickham Market.

The audience had that middle-class respectability that forms the core of TV shows like Midsomer Murders. You just know there's evil lurking behind the twitching curtains. They were also, broadly, of a certain age. Sanatogen should have sponsored the show.

At 8.30pm the lights dimmed and it was showtime. Cue a meeting of book bloggers at a spooky house on a freebie to meet Thrope Publishing's new crime writer, resulting in a lot of backbiting, bitching, rivalry - and a murder.

The cast deserve to have their names in lights: Jackie Wilks as Clarice and Miss Amy, Belinda Laffling as Beverley, Helen Shand as Venice, Geoff Jacobs as Sid and Erica McLean as the devious Cherry.

Photo - Alex McLean

And, to wrap up, the booming presence of Tom Maltby as Monsieur Parrot, a French detective played as a cross between Agatha Christie's Poirot and Rene from 'Allo 'Allo. Great stuff.

We debated as tables to uncover the killer amongst us, but to little success. It was left to Monsieur Parrot to reveal all. Drum roll here please.

Cherry Cutting was the killer and she did it by rubbing Di Denouement's lip salve along the skirting boards which had cyanide on for the "tunnelling rat problem."

Rapturous applause for the cast followed, including lighting guru Shou-Wen Tang and Tricia Cornhill, who organised and helped source the costumes - and even supplied fairy cakes for the final scene.

And last, but not least the show's director Madeleine Wellings deserves a New Year's Honour (she's done more than any useless MP) for herding the actors together into a proper team.

Photo - Kevin Young

All can now relax … until the summer when the frantic search for a new show begins.

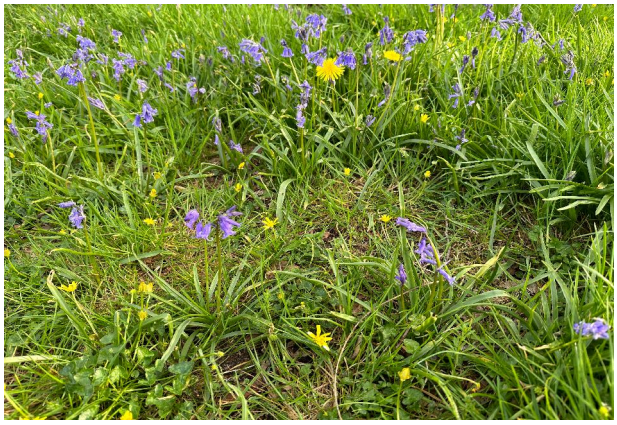
Break a leg as they say, Ufford Players.

**Andy Gardner**

## Wild about Ufford

April and May are months abundant with blossom, wild flowers and bird song with the migrant birds coming back to their summer breeding sites. Parklands Wood is an excellent place to listen to and spot birds and observe all the emerging shoots as the trees start to come alive again.

There are many species of wild flower currently in bloom, and the wood has two areas where there is a fantastic display of bluebells one at each end.



Bluebells, Celandine and Dandelions

A walk along the many paths crossing the wood is highly recommended. You will hear around ten different birds singing including song thrush, blackcap, chiffchaff, robin and wren. An area near the Community Hall will not be mown to allow the wild flowers to thrive.

This year the Gardening Club Plant and Seed Sale will feature a wild about theme with not just the usual donations of plants, but also Notcutts Nursery are donating some wild flower seed which will be available free of charge. We are waiting to hear if they will be able to come along to the sale to give advice on wild flower planting, but if they are unable to attend the gardening club committee will be available to help.

Mustard Garlic

**Plant and Seed Sale at St. Mary's Parish Hall on Saturday 18 May 10:00-12:00.**

Tea and cake also available, please bring cash, proceeds will be donated to a charity for MND.

**Rilla Forge**

THE UFFORD CROWN

13th Anniversary

**The Ufford Crown**
**High Street**
**Ufford, Suffolk**
**IP13 6EL**

THE UFFORD CROWN

COME AND JOIN US
AT THE UFFORD CROWN THIS MAY

New Marquee Open for Alfresco Dining

Open for lunch on Bank Holiday Monday 6th May
Serving food 12noon to 3pm, drinks to 5pm.

Music in the Marquee with Tom Mumford
Sunday 19th May 4pm to 7pm.

Open for Lunch and Supper Wednesday to Sunday

**Dog friendly**
**with treats and water bowls**

**Please call to book a table on 01394 461030 or book online: www.theuffordcrown.com**

# A Great Local Success Story

The Ufford Crown owners Polly and Max Durrant celebrate their thirteenth anniversary. Edward Creswick asked them about their highs and lows

The PUNCH in January 2011 reported "The temporary closure of The Crown just before Christmas." It had become a neglected, rundown establishment.

Will Hardiman (Polly's brother and then chef at the Station in Framlingham) heard the Crown was available, and proposed to Max Durrant he run it with Will as chef. Max, an experienced London gastropub manager, and his wife Polly, working in the Virgin Atlantic Press Office, were both looking to leave London and be closer to family in Suffolk. The result was a new family business. Max is the calculated risk-taker and Polly the more cautious partner. Max said "When I had been unable to attend our first viewing of the Crown, I was surprised at Polly's enthusiasm about the possibilities there." Polly added "The pub was in pretty bad shape, particularly what was to be our living quarters upstairs with our then eighteen-month-old daughter Darcy."

The official re-opening was Friday 29th April 2011, Will and Kate's royal wedding day, which gave them only six weeks to prepare, according to Max. "It was a furious effort to make the essential quick fixes. We managed to put in central heating and acquired second-hand stuff to upgrade the kitchen."

The Ufford Crown Team: James, Jess, Will, Polly and Max

According to Polly "Within the first three months we realised that what we were doing was working and we were thrilled to have had such a positive response." Since then it has been a work in progress which started after six months with carpets to reduce noise.

In 2013 they were asked to manage the Ramsholt Arms. Max undertook this task, with Polly and Will continuing to manage the Crown. Polly said "We have been so lucky to have a great team to help us over the years to enable us to run two pubs; our managers Jess and James have been here for years, Jess started just after we opened and James since 2018."

They undertook an extensive renovation in 2016, working with interior designer JoJo Humes-Brown, and the late Rick Arbon on the joinery and cabinetmaking. There's a plaque in the bar honouring Rick for his contribution.

Polly said "It's all been really hard work with many ups and a few downs, Covid being the worst." Max explained "The lockdown was announced without warning just before Mothers' Day in March 2020. The entire catering industry had their fridges full and larders stocked, but no customers. We quickly decided to provide take-away menus to all our booked customers, obtaining the essential containers and packaging from local takeaways."

Polly noted "Paul and Stella Booth were invaluable during lockdown in installing block paving in the garden for our first marquee, allowing alfresco dining as the lockdowns eased."

Polly and Max particularly appreciate Nick Apperley and David Berridge leading the annual Carols at The Crown over the years.

Accolades include the Estrella Top 100 Gastro Pubs in the UK in 2024, and the East Anglian Seven Best Sunday Roasts in 2024. The menu offers nine roasts on Sunday!

Polly said "Our aim is consistency of quality and service to maintain our reputation for great pub food with decent portions. We value both our loyal villagers' following, and regulars from far afield. Ufford has been a great place to work, live and bring up our two daughters, Darcy and Margot, now 14 and 11."

Polly added "We are so grateful for everyone's support since we started the pub thirteen years ago and we look forward to the next thirteen years in Ufford."

## The Ufford Crown

### Observations by Nick Apperley

Having lived in Ufford for over 35 years, I've seen The Ufford Crown, or simply The Crown, in Ufford as it was, undergo a number of reincarnations over the previous twenty years. Each was very much just a variation on the same theme; a tired former football and tourist coach pub stop on the old A12 to and from Norwich.

With each change of landlord/lady we eagerly started frequenting it in the hope that it would be good for Friday evening beers, or tasty food, but sadly we were invariably disappointed. What seemed an oversized car park from its former life remained eerily empty for many years.

It was with such great excitement that we heard of new young owners buying it, a real commitment to its cause.

So The Ufford Crown was born and reinvented, with time and money spent on the fabric of the 16th century coaching inn, having been tremendously refurbished by the late Rick Arbon, from next door at Forge House.

Polly, Max, Will and team always provide a cheery welcome and consistently good food in a lovely warm and friendly environment. As part of Ufford they have also organised pumpkin carving, Easter egg hunts and supported charities such as the Eve Appeal Evening Cycle and the much-loved 'Carols at The Ufford Crown'.

With it's great service, food and atmosphere, at lunchtime or in the evening, or to book a private room for a special occasion with family and friends, there really isn't a better choice than The Ufford Crown.

What a pub!

## Beloved Ufford Residents Say Farewell

On my first night in Ufford, in early 2015, I walked through the churchyard and down the drift towards the bustling White Lion. I opened the door and received that welcome that so many warned me I would experience upon entering a British country pub: a room full of people went silent, all heads turned icily towards me. I made my way to the bar. An unkempt gardener, more Anglo-Saxon than Norman, stood to my left. "Who the hell are you?" he growled to me. "My name is Daniel, and I've just moved to the village."

"Where?" he promptly followed up. My heart began racing. Should I tell this stranger my home address? What if he comes by and prunes my shrubbery? Before I could think of a convincing lie that would spare me any unnecessary horticulture, a kind woman behind the bar spoke up: "He's moved next to Marguerite."

There I was, a stranger in the middle of Suffolk, never having met a soul in this parish, and yet not only was I known about, but so too were my whereabouts identified. Further, there was an assumed knowledge of a woman named "Marguerite". Never have I lived anywhere with this kind of interconnected community – from that moment I knew I was in for a new experience.

Nine years later, I've become a part of that interconnected community in so many ways: countless mentions in the Ufford Punch, enduring the pandemic lockdowns, narrowly surviving the anti-social behavior of teens at the playing fields, prolonged success at the pub quiz, meeting Kevin Young, dwile flonking, even somehow coming in 2nd place in the homemade bread category at the Summer Show - not to mention the countless dinner parties, pints of ale, pick-up basketball games, and all of the other little things that make this village such a wonderful community.

Sadly, the time has come and my wife and I must now leave our beautiful cottage on Church Lane. Wherever we end up, we will always cherish the memories and friendships we've made while living here. Thank you!


# WHITE LION PUB

Lower Street, Ufford

2024

*Spring at the White Lion*

- **Ufford Arts & Crafts Fair - Saturday/Sunday 11th-12th May**
- **Quiz Night - Tuesday 14th May 7pm Meal, Quiz 8pm**
- **French Themed Evening: Five-Course Taster Menu & Selected Wines - Thursday 16th May - Please book early.**
- **Open Mic Night - Thursday 23rd May 7pm**
- **Ufford Family Day - Sunday 26th May Starting 2pm Fun for all the family, games, food & prizes.**
- **Quiz Night - Tuesday 28th May 7pm Meal, Quiz 8pm**

**Opening Times for May**

**Closed All Day Monday**

**Tuesday - Saturday - 12 noon-2:30pm 6-10pm**

**Sunday - 12 noon-9pm**

**For additional information or to book an event please contact Andy on 07538 600986**

stephen_thurlow@hotmail.com Please reserve a table to avoid disappointment 01394 460770

Please check our website for details of our events: www.uffordwhitelion.co.uk

## Ufford Gardening Club

The Suffolk garden writer, editor and blogger Barbara Segal visited Ufford Gardening Club in March.

For those who are not familiar with her work Barbara is well known in gardening circles not least for the thirteen books she has written on plants and gardens and also for her popular blog at www.thegardenpost.com. Additionally she helps to organise The National Garden Scheme for Suffolk and tends her own town garden in Sudbury which is packed full of interesting plants, vegetables and herbs. She is a fellow of The Chartered Institute of Horticulture and also edits its magazine.

Although her latest book is “The Secret Gardens of The South East” on this occasion she chose to expand on an earlier work “The Secret Gardens of East Anglia”. Her richly illustrated talk took us on “an imaginary bus ride” through Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire visiting some of the twenty two gardens portrayed in the book.

When Barbara moved from London to Suffolk in 1986 to establish her first garden she began visiting the well, and lesser, known gardens locally and eventually collected the stories of her favourites together with the help of garden photographer Marcus Harpur, this collection became “The Secret Gardens of East Anglia”.

In this she talks about the ingenious ways the gardens’ owners have responded to the various climate and design challenges with which they are faced. The eastern region (until recently) is famously dry with often sandy soils, however water in the form of ponds, rivers and streams, and ancient moated houses, is the one thing that might link these gardens.

During her talk we first visited gardens in Norfolk, from East Ruston, with its densely planted garden forever expanding into the surrounding countryside, to the wonderful watery world of Pensthorpe with its millennial garden designed by the Dutchman Piet Oudolf. We moved on to the grand formal gardens of Silverstone Farm with interesting ornamental garden furniture designed by George Carter and the lovely walled kitchen garden of Hoveton Hall. We left Norfolk after visiting the quirky garden surrounding Winterton Lighthouse.

Driving on to Suffolk we visited Polstead Mill, Helmingham Hall, Wyken Hall and Wood Farm with its 500 year old farmhouse seemingly floating above a moat-like pond and an enchanting wildflower meadow established on heavy clay soil. Another moated garden recently visited by the club, the lovely Columbine Hall, also featured.

However it was the less familiar gardens she chose to portray in Essex that took my fancy as there were several that I hadn’t come across before such as Ulting Wick, near Maldon and Tinkers Green on the Suffolk/ Essex borders where the five acre plot was developed from scratch around a small thatched cottage. Ulting Wick won the ‘Nations favourite Garden award’ from ‘The English Garden Magazine’ and is famous for its spring tulip planting.

The bus then took us to Cambridge where we visited a tiny city garden, just 8x4 metres, and, as a contrast, The Manor House, Fenstanton, which was the former home of the renowned English landscape designer Capability Brown.

We alighted back in Suffolk, from our imaginary bus ride, tired but enlightened, buoyed up by the trip and feeling blessed to have so many beautiful gardens available to visit in the region.

The Secret Gardens of Suffolk is published by Frances Lincoln with an introduction by Beth Chatto.

**Ros Conway**

## Hadrian’s Wall Walk for St Elizabeth Hospice

Mandy Mitchell from Lodge Road, Ufford is undertaking the full coast to coast Hadrian’s Wall walk in May to raise money for St Elizabeth’s Hospice via her JustGiving page …

“I shall be walking in memory of my treasured husband Kevin who we sadly lost in September. My friend Katie Webber and I want to raise as much money as we can for the hospice that helped Kevin during his illness and in his final days. The hospice helps so many people in the area and any donations would be hugely appreciated.”

**TH**

# White Lion Vintage Car Rally

The sun made a fleeting appearance this year but it stayed dry, allowing the team at the White Lion to host another busy rally with an outstanding turnout from car owners and the village

Foppe welcomes Tom Boyd in his one litre, single cylinder 1906 Astahl. With only eight to ten of this model ever produced, Tom believes this is the sole survivor.

Class of 1912 - On the left a Ford Model T, one of the first built in the UK in Manchester and an Oakland Model 40 Tourer, this 4 cylinder 40hp 4.1 litre version is the only one in the UK and available for wedding hire. **TH**

## Maelstrom hits White Lion Marquee

As the Punch was going to press, a period of extraordinary weather rolled in and battered Ufford with rain, hail and high winds - with the White Lion's marquee bearing the brunt of it.

Stephen told us how events unravelled.

"We had erected our fine looking traditional marquee last week on Wednesday 10th April, the day after the strong winds of the Tuesday. Only to receive a phone call from chef Finn to say the marquee was struggling in the strong winds on 15th April. I said I would be there in ten minutes, only to find the marquee looking as per the photo. Kit, Finn and I had no choice but to release the storm ropes to allow the marquee to fully come down, before she had taken off to Eyke."

"After inspection it was agreed the marquee was torn, and sadly damaged beyond financial repair. With pre-arranged engagements for Saturday 27th April and Saturday 4th May, the clock was now ticking."

"We now have a marquee going up on Monday 22nd April, this time with an aluminium frame, same foot print as the previous one but a lot stronger - thanks to the Highfield Event Group in Bury St Edmunds."

"We have had to bite the bullet but with a host of events along with our booked weddings and various celebrations, hopefully our investment will not be in vain and all the village will be able to experience our new marquee over time."

Stephen and Andy would like to thank all those that have offered their support. **Stephen Thurlow**

# James' Jeep Journey

James Mutton has been attending the Ufford Car Rally since 1994, unfortunately he was away for his 30th anniversary but relates the journey he has taken with his Ford GPW Jeep.

After a childhood of interest in jeeps and World War 2, it was in October 1994 that I found a jeep in Exchange & Mart for sale and purchased it from a vegetable small holder who lived in Mildenhall. He had bought the vehicle (it was in bits and pieces and very rusty and badly worn) from a farm in the Rutland Water area a few years previously but did nothing with it as he admitted it was beyond his capabilities.

This jeep was a Ford GPW which was built under licence from Willys-Overland Motors, this variant is slighter rarer and slightly different, although all parts are interchangeable with the Willys MB.

Between 1941 and 1945, 277,896 Ford GPW (G for Government, P represents the 80 inch wheelbase reconnaissance and W for Willys) and 359,489 Willys MB (M for Military, B for the second model) were built.

I began researching, with the British army records confirming that it had not served with them. Sadly the data plates were missing but the chassis number told me it was assembled in July 1943. However, the biggest disappointment whilst researching was finding out that all the WW2 US military vehicle records were destroyed in a fire in July 1973 in Overland, Missouri.

A four year restoration programme began, taking every part down to the bare chassis. Sandblasting, painting and rebuilding, using if required NOS (new old stock) parts which at that time were reasonably available. I took many trips to military vehicle shows, autojumbles and dealers in the UK and Europe finding original Ford parts still in their boxes and packets, which I kept and still have today. Henry Ford personally insisted that every part had the script F mark on it, even down to the bolts for warranty purposes.

When my restoration was completed one of the first outings was to the Ufford Rally in the spring of 1999, to meet up with my long-time friends Malcolm and Hugo Sneath. The Rally in those days consisted of a treasure hunt and then a night of music and fun at the White Lion. I never made it home any year of the Rally!

Malcolm, Hugo and I have made many trips together, including the 55th D-Day anniversary in Normandy where we all attended in our military vehicles to take part in events to commemorate the invasion. I was approached by IWM Duxford to take the jeep to their "Return of the Aces" at their Flying Legends air show and along with other jeeps to ferry WW2 air force veterans along the flight line.

I took Bud Mahurin a US fighter ace who during WW2 was stationed with the 56th Fighter Group at Halesworth. I cannot express how honoured I felt to meet Bud and many other WW2 air aces that day, including Johnny Johnson, the Battle of Britain ace.

My jeep has attended many airfield open days rallies and shows, and on one occasion I drove Suggs (from Madness) around in it for a TV documentary!

An interesting gentleman I have come across is Tom Wolboldt. Tom has been researching jeeps in the Henry Ford Archives for over 20 years and, as a jeep owner himself, there is nothing he doesn't seem to know. He found out that my jeep was delivered to the US Army on 16th July 1943 after being assembled at the Ford Louisville, Kentucky plant, but there the trail went cold.

I have every intention to continue my search and find out what happened to my jeep next. As I and many owners of old antiquities say, "if only they could talk!"

**James Mutton**

## The Ufford Tennis Club

There can be no doubt that Chris Cage loves her tennis - and her tennis club. With a number of fellow members in attendance an enthusiastic and friendly welcome was extended to those newcomers that turned up to the two open court sessions at the beginning of April.

The Ufford Tennis Club is looking for new players and Chris had no qualms in saying it would be wonderful if those new players were a little younger than the present crop. Don't think that means you will not see a forehand winner from an existing member flash past you or for you to wonder, how on earth did they get that ball back? It's all in the court craft and years of experience!

Although for a few of the newcomers "sorry" seemed to be the easiest word, sorries were unnecessary, especially if it had been 20 or 40 years since you last picked up a racket. Everyone that came along was encouraged and congratulated for getting out there and giving it a go.

Chris explained "we have over 30 members at present, but have a regular 12 to 16 attend throughout the week. Our days of playing singles are mostly over, but doubles is an enjoyable game and you still feel like you've had some good exercise. Tennis is a great social game and has been a lovely way of meeting people in the village."

"You cannot be serious … I saw chalk dust"
words not heard at either of the open sessions

The tennis court is in fantastic condition having been repainted last year and the floodlights allow for evening play. Annual rates are extremely reasonable and under 15's can play for free if their parents are members. "We would love to see more families come down and use our facilities" commented Chris.

Chris was encouraged by the number of people that came along to the two sessions but if you were unable to make them or would like to learn more about joining the club, please contact her on 01394 461082. **TH**

## Foskett's Willow - The Best A Bat Can Get

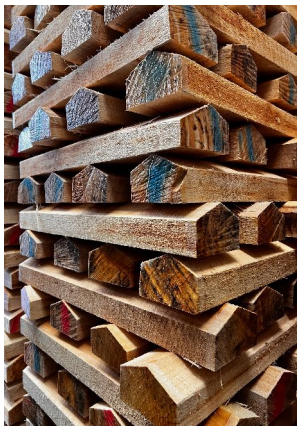
If you've hit a cricket ball any time recently, there's a good chance that your bat started life in a small cluster of farm sheds just half a mile from the centre of Ufford.

Guy Foskett started making bats there as a sideline to the farm's arable business in 1987, and by 1990 he had grown the company to the size where it occupied him full-time. He now runs it with his son, focussing solely on producing clefts - bat-sized blocks of willow that are then sold to manufacturers to be turned into finished bats.

The Punch recently joined a fascinating tour of the premises organised by Deben Probus, where we watched mesmerised as a great tree disappeared with alarming rapidity. First the trunk was chainsawed into bat-length sections as effortlessly as a Swiss roll is sliced

for afternoon tea, then (in a process requiring great skill and practice to ensure the grain is vertical and to avoid cracking) the slices were split by hand vertically into rough clefts with a wedge. Finally the individual clefts were cut to size on a table saw before heading off to a kiln for slow drying.

It's a lean, efficient operation, both in terms of resources and labour. The tree rippings (or offcuts) are used to fuel the kilns, while large, rootless branches of the tree are replanted straight back in the ground to create, some 20 years later, the next generation of trees. Just six employees handle everything from planting and pruning through to felling and manufacturing, turning out around 40,000 clefts a year. About 10% of these, the higher grades, are sold to bespoke U.K bat makers, while the remaining 90% go to India to be turned into bats sold under the brand names New Balance, Kookaburra, SG and SS. Prices range depending on quality from £5 to £90.



Pictures left: slicing and splitting. Above: finishing on a saw bench and the world's largest Jenga set.

Guy is reluctant to sell more to the larger English manufacturers, firstly because of the added bureaucracy involved in dealing with accountants and purchase departments, and secondly for the same reason that he doesn't make finished bats himself - other customers will assume that he's withholding the best wood from them. He made a deliberate decision to "do what I do well".

The visit ended with a walk to a plantation nearby, where Guy stopped to hug a large willow. Maybe it felt like affection to the tree, but it was actually a calculating hug; if his fingers won't reach around it, the tree is a candidate for felling. Then its branches will return here to grow into new cricket bats, somewhere around the middle of the century. Maybe Saudi Arabia will be winning tests by then.

**Kevin Young**

## Potentially Beloved Residents Say Hello

A warm welcome to Jo Coates and Daniel Metz, new arrivals at 3 Church Lane following their move from 2 Lady Cottages. Facing North-South instead of East-West, their new house offers them a "whole new perspective" on the village.

As pub quiz mavens they are already familiar faces to those who test their noggins in the White Lion on Tuesday nights, and they are looking forward to getting to know everyone and participating fully in village life, particularly societies and book clubs. Don't be shy about saying hello and buying them a pint. **Kevin Young**

# The Ufford Mail

Helen Paxton recounts the life of Ufford man John Glanfield who for the majority of his years was blind and partially deaf but became known as "The Ufford Mail"

Village life in the nineteenth century was predictable for the most part; hard work in the fields or workshops, church, poaching perhaps, and the friendships and fallings out of neighbours. Most of the people who were ever here are long forgotten. John Glanfield has been forgotten too, but in his day he was a well-known figure in this locality.

John was born to John and Eliza Glanfield in 1843. When he was five, his father died. Bereft and without support, Eliza may have feared that she and young John would find themselves in the workhouse before long. Eliza quickly remarried. Her new husband was William Cracknell who was also widowed with a child. The marriage would have been expedient for them both, but there is no reason to think the family were not happy together in their Barrack Lane home.

In 1851 the family had moved to Lower Street, and life had taken an abrupt turn for young John. Aged seventeen, John was listed in the census of that year as "deaf, near blind". We don't know whether John had existing conditions which worsened over time, or whether this was the result of a childhood illness, but in those days in rural areas there would have been no specialist help for him to manage his conditions and he and his family would have had to do the best they could.

John's stepfather William worked as a labourer and then latterly had an army pension which kept the family together until he died in 1865. Eliza's second widowhood must have left she and John fearful that they might be facing the spectre of the workhouse again. Fortunately, the 1871 census shows John and Eliza still in Ufford but living in Upper Street. Soon after this, John must have resolved to set himself up in business as a courier.

John would walk once or twice a day from Ufford to Woodbridge and back again with a young lad at his side pulling a mail-cart in which he could stow all manner of groceries, parcels, coal and wood. With the boy acting as his guide, John would collect orders from the Woodbridge shopkeepers and walk slowly back to the village, dropping off parcels as he went. Wherever he stopped, John blew loudly on a horn to drum up business or announce his arrival. He kept an ear trumpet in his pocket which enabled him to hear which parcels were to be taken where.

Woodbridge Reporter, 07/08/1879

The Ufford Mail

*What clarion's hoarse notes are those*
*Diurnally assail*
*My tympanum, and check repose?*
*'Tis John's the Ufford Mail's.*

*Whose chariot's that with body square,*
*And wheels uniquely low,*
*Drawn daily by a human pair,*
*With measured steps and slow?*

*Why that's John Glanfield's luggage van,*
*Or mail-cart, which you will,*
*He, like a most industr'ous man,*
*Does all he can to fill*

*With groc'ry, parcels, coals and wood,*
*And like com-bus- ti-bles,-*
*Flour, bread, and meat, and other food*
*A Woodbridge tradesman sells.*

*And these commodities conveys*
*To Ufford ev'ry day,*
*And sometimes twice, and often brings*
*Some things the other way.*

*And who is he with cap-clad sconce,*
*And horn in sin'ster paw,*
*With sightless orbs- tho' sightful once,*
*Who doth that "chariot" draw?*

*O, John, the Ufford Mail, that is:*
*The boy who's by his side,*
*And paid a groat a day, is his*
*Interpreter and guide.*

*Two horns hath John, the one he blows,*
*To note his presence near,*
*Then in his pocket safely stows,-*
*The other's for his ear.*

*For John, as any stone is blind,*
*And deaf as any post,*
*Yet doth not his afflictions mind,*
*But proudly makes a boast.*

*That he his mother doth maintain*
*By his own industry,*
*Which filial duty, some distain,*
*Who can both hear and see.*

*Then let no heartless, cruel wight*
*The Ufford Mail deride,*
*Lest he, like him, should lose his sight,*
*And want a constant guide.*

*But rather let encouragement*
*To industry be shown,*
*And honest John will be content,*
*That he his horn hath blown.*

J.D. of Woodbridge

John's regular rounds must have soon become an integral part of daily life in Ufford and Woodbridge, providing a valuable service to trade in both. He became known to all not as John, but as "The Ufford Mail".

His business was successful and he was able to pay the lad a groat a day, but John's greatest happiness was that he could afford to look after Eliza in her later years. The pair lived together in Upper Street until Eliza died in 1895. She was 88 years old.

John continued to ply his trade as "The Ufford Mail" into his sixties, but age, infirmity, or the physical toll that his work had taken on his body meant that he soon ceased to be able to work. Not long after his mother's death he finally entered the workhouse; the outcome that he and the doughty Eliza had avoided for so many years.

John passed away in 1910 in the Union Workhouse, Rushmere St. Andrew. His was a life begun in difficulty but pursued with resourcefulness and industry and strengthened by the constant love and care of a mother and son for one another.

# Nature Notes by Chris Reading

This month I shall focus on Swifts, those aerial acrobats of the bird world. They should be arriving from Africa about now and will entertain us during the summer months with their aerobatic wizardry. They rarely touch the ground, as they eat, bathe, sleep and even mate, while flying. Swifts (true to their name) are the fastest bird in level flight, with a top speed of almost 70mph.

Against a pale blue summer sky, which we always get in Suffolk, they appear black but in fact they are a dusky brown with a white throat.

They spend their winters in Africa and migrate to Europe for the summer to feast on flying insects. They scream low and fast over rooftops and around church spires catching their prey. They return to Africa at the end of July – a 14,000 mile round trip. Their numbers have halved over the past 20 years and are now 'red listed' – which means they are endangered and need our help.

What can we do? Well, here are a few suggestions. Leave existing nest sites undisturbed, especially when carrying out roof repairs. Put up nest boxes. I have installed two Swift boxes at Croft Cottage. Report any nest sites in roofs or boxes to the Woodbridge Swifts Group. See contact details below. Swifts and Swallows are the harbingers of summer. Let's hope it's a good one – for all of us.

Photo: Thanks to the Suffolk Bird Group for permission to use their photo

General enquiries: woodbridge.swifts@gmail.com
Nest box enquiries: woodswiftbox@hotmail.com
Report a nest site: woodswiftsites@gmail.com
SOS Swifts in Suffolk: swifts@suffolkbirdgroup.org

Nature Knowledge – Everyone knows that moths are attracted to light but not many are aware that European hornets share this compulsion. Unlike bees and wasps, hornets fly both night and day, preying on moths and insects – and sometimes hurl themselves at lighted windows at night. I have experienced this phenomenon myself. You have been warned!

## A Spring Afternoon in School Lane

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## Ufford Art History Group Visit to Flatford Mill

*"I even love every stile and stump, and every lane in the village so deep-rooted are early impressions"* John Constable 1776-1837

One winter's morning towards the end of the eighteenth century a miller's son from East Bergholt took the coach from Stratford St Mary to London with a satchel full of drawings and a head full of ambition - his name was John Constable and he was destined to be the greatest landscape painter England has ever produced.

The National Trust owns 500 acres around Flatford Mill and it was his home that members of the Ufford Art History Group visited. There we enjoyed an interesting tour led by UAHG member Maggie Cooper walking in John Constable's own footsteps and seeing the unchanged landscape as he saw it all those years ago.

Few of his paintings were actually painted around Flatford - he sketched and drew there and when back home in London he would then paint his picture - all usually featuring a dog, the colours red and white, a child, Dedham church, trees and clouds.

The Hay Wain was one such painting - painted in his London studio but sketched at Flatford - the painting has an intimacy that reveals a childhood nostalgia and love for the countryside - painted in 1821 it was originally called "Landscape Noon" and was exhibited at the Royal Academy the same year but failed to sell. However it was exhibited at the Paris Salon in 1824 and was warmly received by French artists and critics. During his lifetime John only sold 20 paintings in England but he was much more popular in France where he sold over 40.

His beloved countryside is now a Mecca for all who aspire to put an English field or an English lane onto canvas. As we all looked out over the landscape and the River Stour nothing had changed - it is just the same as Constable showed it and just as he knew and loved it.

**Alex Bennett**

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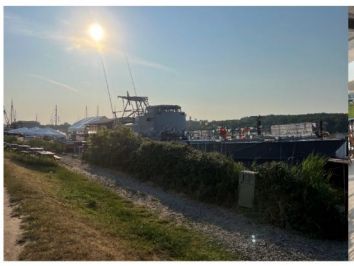

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**May's gardening notes come from local horticulturist Nikk Slowey FdSc Hort, Lecturer in Horticulture at Suffolk Rural. Along with her husband Christian, they are garden design and maintenance company Honeysuckle Horticulture - visit www.honeysucklehorticulture.co.uk**

***"How beautiful are the rosy footsteps of May! Less showery and changeful than April, and not so heated and burdensome as June, she stands like a gentle mediator between the two…"***
**Eliza Cook's Journal, 1850**

As the spring bulbs fade and the herbaceous border bursts into life we gently fade into summer. Longer and warmer days bring the wonderful gift of more time to spend in our gardens doing the things we enjoy most whether that be mowing stripes into the lawn or relaxing with a G&T.

## Jobs for the Ornamental Garden

Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs.

Divide established clumps of hostas as they come into growth.

Take cuttings of tender perennials, such as fuchsia and pelargoniums. The new shoots of hardy perennials can also be used for cuttings.

Tie in rambling and climbing roses. Laying the stems horizontally will help to produce more flowers.

Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowering.

For a lush lawn, mow weekly. Why not consider leaving some areas uncut for wildlife too? By supporting Plant Life's No Mow May Challenge you will let more wildflowers bloom in your garden which help provide a vital source of nectar to bees and other insects.

Plant out half-hardy and tender annuals after the last frost.

'Chelsea Chop' late season herbaceous perennials such as phlox. Prune about a third of the stems by one third and another third by two thirds resulting in delayed flowering and extended flowering season.

Tie sweet peas into their supports in order to prevent wind damage and make for better blooms.

Sow biennials such as foxgloves, forget me nots and wallflowers in a seed bed or undercover for flowering next year.

Plant out dahlia and chrysanthemum into their final growing positions for late summer and early autumn colour.

Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs.

## Jobs for the Vegetable Garden

Plant out or direct sow tender crops such as tomatoes, sweetcorn, French beans, courgettes and pumpkins.

Keep the fruit of strawberries off the ground by placing straw underneath the developing berries.

Continue to earth up potatoes to stop the tubers turning green and becoming poisonous.

Protect carrots from carrot fly by covering with horticultural fleece or enviromesh.

Pinch out the growing points of broad beans as soon as beans start to appear at the base of the plant to reduce the risk of blackfly attack.

Succession sow salad crops such as lettuce, rocket and radish. Just a pinch at a time will ensure continuous crops throughout the summer.

Cover soft fruit such as raspberries and strawberries with netting to protect from birds.

Make extra tall supports for your runner beans - they can grow over 8ft high!

Support pea plants with twiggy sticks or pea netting.

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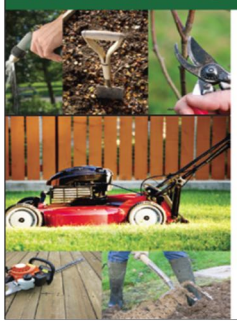

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# UFFORD DIARY DATES FOR MAY

## EVENTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6th May | Friends of Parklands Wood working party 9am | UCH |
| 8th May | Ufford Coffee Morning 10am - 12noon | UCH |
| 11-12th May | Ufford Arts and Craft Fair at the White Lion | |
| 14th May | Ufford Art History Group - Visit to Earsham Hall near Bungay | |
| 14th May | White Lion Quiz evening - food from 7pm, quiz starts at 8pm | |
| 18th May | Ufford Gardening Club - Plant and Seed Sale 10am - 12 noon | SMPH |
| 19th May | Music in the Marquee with Tom Mumford at the Ufford Crown 4pm - 7pm | |
| 20th May | Friends of Parklands Wood working party 9am | UCH |
| 23rd May | Open Mic Evening at the White Lion - register from 7pm, start at 8pm | |
| 25th May | Coffee Morning in Aid of the Children's Society 10am - 12 noon | SMPH |
| 26th May | Ufford Family Day at the White Lion - starts at 2pm | |
| 28th May | White Lion Quiz evening - food from 7pm, quiz starts at 8pm | |
| 28th May | Ufford Parish Council AGM starting at 7pm | SMPH |

## CLASSES AND CLUBS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mondays 2.15pm | Tai Chi Classes | UCH |
| Monday and Friday evenings from 5pm | Tennis Club | UCH |
| Tuesdays 2.00pm | Boules | UCH |
| Thursdays 9.30-10.30am and 10.45-11.45am | Happy Babies | UCH |

## BRIDGE CLUBS

**Friendly Bridge Club**
Mondays 6.30pm **UCH**

**U2 Bridge Club**
Wed 8th & 22nd May 1.45pm **UCH**

## WHERE?

| | |
|---|---|
| SMPH | St Mary's Parish Hall, Church Lane |
| UCH | Ufford Community Hall, The Avenue |

# The PUNCH Directory

## Schedule of events and classes are on the diary dates above

**Boules (by tennis court)**
2pm Tuesdays, turn up and play

**Bridge Classes**
Mike Fisher
www.mikefisherbridge.com

**Carpet Bowls**
Di Fulcher 01394 460551

**Community Hall**
Bookings.uch@gmail.com

**Cycle Club**
Stephen Thurlow 01394 460770

**Deben Probus Club**
John Hickling 01728 746322
johnhickling@uwclub.net

**Friends of Ufford Woods**
Mike Hawthorne 01394 420241

**Happy Babies**
hello@happy-babies.co.uk

**Helping Ufford Group (HUG)**
Hotline: 07595 970139
helpinguffordgroup@gmail.com

**Parish Council and website**
Clerk: Judi Hallett
01394 411405 / 07739 411927
www.ufford.suffolk.cloud

**Parish Church Committee**
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
k.eyres@btopenworld.com

**PUNCHLine**
Lyn Taylor 01394 460253
PUNCHline@uffordpunch.org.uk

**St Mary's Parish Hall**
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
k.eyres@btopenworld.com

**Tennis Club**
Chris Cage 01394 461082

**U2 Bridge Club**
Adrian Smith 01394 461179

**Ufford Art History Group**
Jenny Searle 01394 460317

**Ufford Arts Festival**
Jeremy Eyres 07739 330398

**Ufford Basketball Club**
Daniel Metz
uffordbasketball@gmail.com

**Ufford Friendly Bridge Club**
Lyn Taylor 01394 460253

**Ufford Gardening Club**
Sheila Creswick 01394 547658
sheila@creswick.uk
www.uffordgardeningclub.org.uk

**Ufford Players Theatre**
Jackie Wilks 01473 333167

**Ufford Tai-Chi**
Ray Norris 01394 383076
www.suffolktaichiacademy.uk

**Ufford PUNCH**
Nicky Scott 01394 460186
secretary@uffordpunch.org.uk

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**Rector of Melton & Ufford: Rev. Paul Hambling**
**Church Office: St. Andrew's Church, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1PX T: 01394 387491**
**Church Wardens of Ufford: Karen Eyres T: 01394 460455**
**David Perfect T: 01394 460363**

Mental health and well-being are very much part of life in our modern time. With an increase in mental health illness across-the-board and indeed across the age range , it is so very important that we all realise the importance of not only the well-being of ourselves but of the well-being of others.

The church doesn't always get things right and it is because it is human. Society doesn't always get things right because it is human. For our part as individuals our responsibility of care lays at the heart of all that we are.

The world can be a challenging place, the rising cost of living and the war in Ukraine and other political unrest across the world all contribute towards a sense of uncertainty and concern.

God wants us all to know that we are his loved children no matter who we are, where we come from where we are going, what we are doing now and whether we believe in God or not. God loves each and every person on this planet. Indeed God also loves the environment and loves the planet, and we should all do our best to make this planet safe not just for ourselves but for those who come after us.

As we move into the summer months and hopefully brighter days, let us continue to show the care that we have for one another and for our world so that all people may know that in Jesus Christ we are all loved children of God may we be blessed now and always.
With my love and prayers
Father Paul.

## Worship at Ufford & Melton

Everyone welcome at Services

**May**

**Sun 5th EASTER 6**
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford
10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

**Sun 12th EASTER 7**
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 am Eucharist at Melton

**Sun 19th PENTECOST**
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford
10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

**Sun 26th TRINITY SUNDAY**
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 am Eucharist at Melton

Please check the church website for updates and the church calendar

**LIVE CHURCH CALENDAR**
www.uffordchurch.org

Food Bank - donations welcome to the 'Little Pantry 'at St Andrew's Church, Melton and Collection Box at Ufford Church.

Thank you. **Jenny Searle**

**COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**
**Saturday 25th May 10:00- 12:00**
**ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL**
*Contact: Karen Eyres for details 07885 377600*

**Online prayer resources:**

https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/
https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer

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Step 5: Turn over
Step 6: Fold all corners to the centre
Step 7: Turn over
Step 8: Push fingers into the 4 corners
Step 9: Explore...

Helen Jones

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